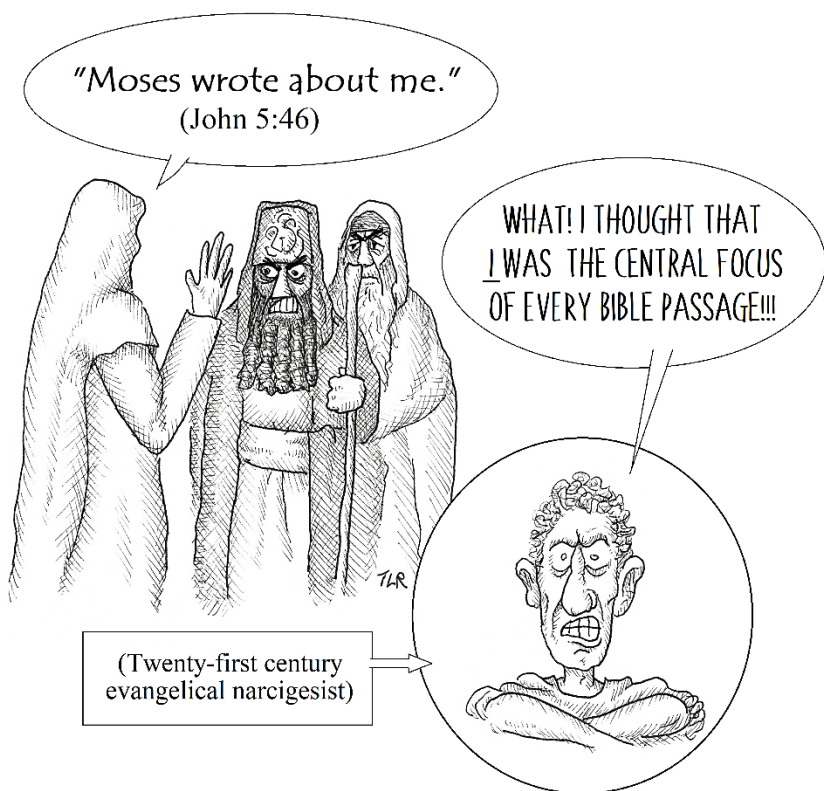


A MODERN BLUNDER

nar-ci-ge-sis:
(nar-sə-'jē-səz) noun.

The practice of inserting oneself into every Bible text and thereby making oneself (instead of Christ) the central character of Scripture.



"Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures." (Luke 24:27, LSB)

VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF ARMAGH, PA

JUNE 1ST, AD 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

The First Day of June, *in the Year of our Lord 2025*



- ONE · IS · YOUR · MASTER · AND · ALL · YE · ARE · BRETHREN -



Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Our studies in the Medieval Christianity wrap-up with a survey of the dark history and doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church.

Morning Worship—9:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Bless His Holy Name"* (#8).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"The Banner of the Cross"* (#489).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: **Ephesians 1:11-18.**

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Will There be any Stars"* (#485).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"Sound the Battle Cry"* (#490).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"HERMENEUTICS, PT. 8: RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Whiter than Snow"* (#374).

Benediction.*



Week of May 25 – May 31

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—I3;

Midweek—5; Weekly Offering—\$799.00;

Video: *"Romanism: Its Scope & Influence"*—96 Total Views.

Cover Art: *"Narcosis,"* by Pastor Terry L. Reese

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study: Thurs., 6:30PM.

DUALING APOSTLES?

Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC

Gal. 2:16a: "...a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Jesus Christ..."
James 2:24: "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone."

An important principal of Biblical interpretation is the **Law of Non-Contradiction**: Scripture will never contradict Scripture.

If the Bible is true, emanating from the **God of Truth** (Isa. 65:16) the **"Amen"** (Rev. 3:14), then self-contradiction is UNTHINKABLE!!! As **God's Book**, the Bible must therefore be *inerrant*. Some passages may *appear* to be contradictory, but these apparent "discrepancies" are *not genuine*!

An example of such purported "contradiction" is when Paul says that we are justified by Faith *apart* from Works (Rom. 3:28, Gal. 2:16), while James maintains we are justified by both Faith *and* Works (James 2:24)!

Liberal critics of the Bible respond to this by claiming that Paul and James represented "*rival Christianities*"—and thus promoted *different Gospels*. **Romanists**, however, evasively ignore & neutralize Paul's Gospel of Grace *via* their Jesuitic sophistry—while maintaining that James is teaching the legalistic **works-based** redemption of Roman Catholicism!

The solution to the dilemma lies within another important principle of Biblical interpretation: **CONTEXT determines the MEANING of Bible words**. Contextually, the term **"Justified"** is being used with *different intent* by each Apostle. **Paul is speaking of Justification as the legal declaration of God**; we are NOT declared "righteous" on the *basis* of works; rather, the righteousness of Christ is imputed unto us, even as our sin was imputed unto Him at Calvary (2Cor.5:21). **James, however, speaks of Justification as something demonstrative or vindicative**: good works are the anticipated **fruit** of the regenerate person who is saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-10), functioning as *evidence* in the world's eyes of his legal acceptance before God.

The Bible stands tho' the hills may tumble, it will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble... The Bible stands.—Haldor Lillenas

DOES THE BIBLE REALLY TEACH *SOLA SCRIPTURA*?

Mark 7:8: "Leaving the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

Roman Catholic attacks upon the Reformation include the claim that the Bible *itself* does not explicitly teach the doctrine of *Sola Scriptura* (i.e., the Bible *ALONE* is the authoritative basis for Christian doctrine and practice). Catholic apologists have long maintained that this rallying cry of the Reformation—"***Sola Scriptura!***"—was merely the *imaginative invention* of Luther, Calvin, and Company. While recognizing the Bible as inspired, Catholic apologists consistently reaffirm that Biblical teaching must be *properly defined* by the Magisterium and traditions of the Church.

Most of our readers have no difficulty in affirming the Grace Brethren motto ("***The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible***"), but if challenged, can we demonstrate that *Sola Scriptura* is a *SCRIPTURALLY* derived dogma?"

Sola Scriptura is not merely a matter of several "proof-texts." Deeper and more compelling, it is an underlying presupposition that runs throughout the *entire fabric* of Scripture. Jesus characteristically appeals to the *decisive basis* of the WORD ("***It is written...***")—NEVER to Rabbinic Tradition. Likewise, the Apostles lift-up the objective *written Word* as the *yardstick* by which everything else is tested.

Note 2 Tim. 3:16-17, concerning the DIVINE ORIGIN and UTILITY of Scripture. ONLY Scripture is ***God-breathed*** and ***all-sufficient*** for doctrine and practice. Everything else must be judged according to the Scriptures (even the teaching of *Paul*, an Apostle—Acts 17:11!). The fallible traditions of men must not supersede the Word (Mark 7:1-13). We are solemnly advised not *go beyond* the Scripture (1Cor. 4:6) as a foundational doctrinal source! ONLY SCRIPTURE is objectively, unchangeably, undisputedly the Word of God. At Worms, Luther underlined the central problem with Popes, Councils, and Church Traditions: "*it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves.*"—T.L. Reese